

Preventing Summer Slide *with the* Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)



What pairs well with summer reading?

Answer: Summer eating!

Thousands of Montana children are at risk of experiencing summer slide without access to healthy meals, social engagement, learning, and supervision in a safe environment. USDA's [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP) provides free meals to children in communities around Montana during the summer months. However, this is only one of the pieces that helps prevent summer slide.

How Can Your Library Help?

Become an SFSP site, become an SFSP sponsor, partner with existing sites, publicize existing programs and/or connect your young patrons to the SFSP. Here's how:

Your Library is Eligible to Serve as a SFSP Site!

We want you to become a SFSP Site. Out of 111 public library locations in Montana, only [one](#) serves as a SFSP site.

Library meeting rooms, common areas, and outdoor areas on library grounds make great summer meal sites. Libraries can incorporate their [summer reading program](#) and other fun, literacy-based activities.

- ⚙ The first step to becoming a SFSP site - finding an existing [SFSP sponsor](#) in your area and check to see if they would like to add a SFSP site at your library.

No SFSP Sponsor in Your Area? No Problem. Become an SFSP Sponsor!

Sponsors of the SFSP handle the financial, administrative and food service responsibilities of SFSP sites. If kitchen space is an issue, keep in mind that meals may be vended from another organization (schools, food banks, etc). Sponsors are reimbursed at a set rate for meals served to eligible children.

- ⚙ Complete and return the [Potential Sponsor Survey](#) to get started. Montana School Nutrition Programs will contact you with further information.
 - For more information on becoming a sponsor, contact Montana School Nutrition Programs at 406-461-9917 or email Emily Dunklee at edunklee@mt.gov.
- ⚙ Check out the Montana Food Bank Network's [Guide to Starting a Summer Food Site](#) for more information.

More Ways to Help

Partner with Existing Sites in Your Community

Libraries are a wonderful community resource. Libraries can help by providing outreach, programming, bookmobile or lobby stop-style service, book giveaways, story-time or other support to existing sites in your community.

- Use [this map](#) from the Montana Food Bank Network to search for existing sites. Contact a local site or sponsor to see how you can help!
- If no sites exist in your community, consider becoming a site yourself! See above for details.

Publicize Local SFSP Sites

Tools for Advertising Montana SFSP Sites

1. Your library will receive outreach [posters](#) (copy attached to this e-mail) from the Montana Food Bank Network in May. Contact Lorianne at lburhop@mfbn.org or call 406-215-1773 for more information.
2. Text **lunch** to **877-877**.
3. Visit the Montana [SFSP Map](#).



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(1) Mail:

*U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*

(2) Fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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